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10/10/63

Admiral Arthur W. Radford/
Room 1078, Main Navy Building
18th and Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Raddy:

We have completed our examination of John C. Broger's report of his visit to Ecuador for the purpose of introducing there the concept of "Militant Liberty." He seems to have engendered some enthusiastic support there.

The "Militant Liberty" approach is primarily overt in its application. Because of this, it falls somewhat outside the immediate focus of our programs which, as you know, are designed to covertly accomplish similar ends. However, there are some aspects of the concept which may be possibly adapted to our needs. Accordingly, I have sent the materials to [redacted] for his use as appropriate.

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Thank you again for thinking of us in this connection. It is indeed important that we all do everything we can to spread to other peoples more understanding and appreciation for the principles which establish personal freedom as a primary goal.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Signed

Allen W. Dulles
Director

Draft submitted by DC/PP Staff/LAC:tms
Rewritten: O/DCI/JMC:bec(9 Oct 57)

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Admiral Arthur W. Radford
Room 1078, Main Navy Building
18th and Constitution Ave., N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Raddy:

I had my staff re-examine the "Militant Liberty" project and I have studied it again myself. As you know, I share your concern with our need for initiative in the "cold war" but I don't think we can take any simple formula to measure the relative standings of nations in terms of our own concept of conditions for the good life. We all want human beings to have liberty and to understand their concomitant responsibilities. But the only way one can be militant about liberty is in militantly desiring it. We can't specify how it is achieved nor what constitutes it. Some societies and cultures - especially the Japanese web society and the religious systems that emphasize an ordered universe - would deeply resent the emphasis on the "sensitive individual conscience" and the implication that our particular formulations of "Liberty" constituted universal values.

There could be, and has been, much argument about the validity of "Militant Liberty" concepts, its use as a sociological tool for the measurement of societies, and the question of whether general principles can be indoctrinated as such or should only motivate specific programs. Regardless of the outcome of such disputation, the point at issue is whether our government should concern itself with it as a program. Very considerable time and effort were expended in 1955 in consideration of "Militant Liberty" at various levels in the government. It occupied OCB committees

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in an attempt to translate it into "Project Action" [redacted]

[redacted] The end result of many meetings and numerous thorough studies was a coordinated position adopted by all agencies that the only appropriate use of the material was as background material for possible use by USIA field offices in the development of indigenous information programs. This decision was noted by OCB action in the minutes of September 1955. Our current review of the matter and of all the pertinent files leads to the conclusion that there would seem to be no justification for renewed government committee or agency involvement with a project that was exhaustively studied and found meritorious in objective but infeasible in practice.

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Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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